

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 141410Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 861

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 91

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL IRA CEASEFIRE TEETERS ALONG

REF: (A) BELFAST 88, (B) BELFAST 86 (C) BELFAST A-17

1. PAST WEEK HAS SEEN SPATE VIOLENT INCIDENTS NORTHERN IRELAND. WHILE NO RPT NOT SINGLE INCIDENT SEEMS BE SERIOUS ENOUGH THREATEN CONTINUATION CEASEFIRE, CUMULATIVE EFFECT COULD BE ASCENDANCY HARDLINE FACTION PROVISIONAL IRA OVER THOSE IN ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING PEACE (REF C).

2. CATHOLIC-OWNED AND PATRONIZED BAR BELFAST ATTACKED WITH GUNFIRE AND THEN BOMBED BY TWO MEN NIGHT MARCH 13. ONE WOMAN WAS KILLED AND MORE THAN A DOZEN CUSTOMERS INJURED. ARMY UNIT SHOT AND WOUNDED TWO YOUNG MEN CATHOLIC FALLS ROAD AREA LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 13. THERE CONFLICTING VERSIONS OF CAUSES SHOOTING WITH ARMY SOURCE STATING MEN CAUGHT WHILE FIRING INTO CROWD AND PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN CLAIMING MEN WERE UNARMED WHEN SHOT.

3. NEWRY BRIGADE PROVISIONAL IRA HAS NOT RPT NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH ON ANNOUNCEMENT IT INTENDED RESUME HOSTILITIES
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(REFTEL A). CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING FIREBOMB ATTACK ON

FISHING FLEET GREENCASTLE IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (REFTEL
B) STILL UNCLEAR. LOYALIST RED HAND COMMANDO HAS CALIMED
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACK BUT HAS DENIED LOYALIST ULSTER
DEFENSE ASSOCIATION CLAIM THAT ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES FOUND ON
BOATS.

4. WHILE SOME OF CURRENT VIOLENCE TRACEABLE TO FEUD BETWEEN
IRISH REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST PARTY AND OFFICIAL IRA PARTICULARLY
WORRISOME ARE SIGNS RETURN SECTARIAN "TIT-FOR-TAT" ASSASSINATIONS.
MAN RESIDING ONE OF ONLY THREE PROTESTANT HOUSES ON
PREDOMINANTLY CATHOLIC STREET BELFAST SHOT AND KILLED ON DOORSTEP
MARKS 12. NZOCAL PRESS SPECULATING SHOOTING WAS REVENGE FOR
KILLING BELFAST UNIVERSITY STUDENT RESIDING NEARBY MARCH 8.
OFFICIAL INCIDENT CENTERS CONTINUE ACTIVE AND STORMONT HAS
ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAVE PROCESSED MORE THAN 200 COMPLAINTS TO
DATE. QUESTIONS ARE WHETHER PROVISIONAL IRA DISCIPLINE WILL
HOLD OVER ALL ACTIVISTS IN FACE PROVOCATIONS AND LARGER QUESTION
OF ATTITUDE COMMUNITY. IF CATHOLIC MEN ON STREET BECOMES
FEARFUL OF ATTACKS BY PROTESTANTS THERE WILL BE INTERNAL
PRESSURE FOR PROVISIONALS RESUME THEIR PROFESSED ROLE OF
PROTECTORS OF COMMUNITY BY FORCE OF ARMS.
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